

REMARKS

Claims 21-45 are pending in this application. Claims 21, 24, 32 and 35 have been amended. Claims 41-45 are new. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all outstanding grounds of rejection. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

Applicants thank Primary Examiner Willian Vaughn and Examiner Phuoc Nguyen for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview August 10, 2005 ("the interview"). During the interview, Applicants' representative described the differences between the applied prior art reference U.S. Patent No. 6,405,248 to Wood and the pending claims. As discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended independent claims 21 and 32, and dependent claims 24 and 35 for clarification. Applicants submit that claims 21 and 32, and claims dependent thereupon, are in condition for allowance over the applied art.

In addition, as discussed during the interview, Applicants have added new independent claim 41 including all of the features of claim 21 and dependent claims 28 and 29, and new independent claim 45 including all of the features of claim 32 and dependent claims 38 and 39. Applicants submit that new independent claim 41, and claims 42-43 dependent thereupon, and new independent claim 44, and claim 45 dependent thereupon, are in condition for allowance over the applied art.

The Office Action rejects under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) claims 21-40 as being anticipated by Wood, U.S. Patent No. 6,405,248 (hereinafter *Wood*).

Applicants traverse these rejections.

Applicants submit that *Wood* does not disclose or suggest, at least,

generating a new tuple identifying a relationship between the first connector and the intermediate connector based on the identified intermediate connection and the direct link between the host and the first port of the first connector, wherein the new tuple indicates that the first connector is directly coupled to the intermediate connector,

as recited, among other features, in independent 21. As discussed during the interview, these features are not disclosed or suggested in *Wood*. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 21 is in condition for allowance over the applied art for at least these

reasons. Dependent claims 22-31 are patentable for at least those reasons as independent claim 21, and additionally for the independently patentable subject matter they recite.

With respect to independent claim 32, Applicants respectfully submit that *Wood* does not disclose or suggest,

a tuple manager to generate a new tuple identifying a relationship between the first connector and the intermediate connector based on the intermediate connection and the direct link between the host and the first connector, wherein the new tuple indicates that the first connector is directly coupled to the intermediate connector,

as recited, among other features, in independent claim 32. These features of independent claim 32 are similar to features recited in independent claim 21, as described above. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 32 is in condition for allowance over the applied art for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 33-40 are patentable for at least those reasons as independent claim 32, and additionally for the independently patentable subject matter they recite.

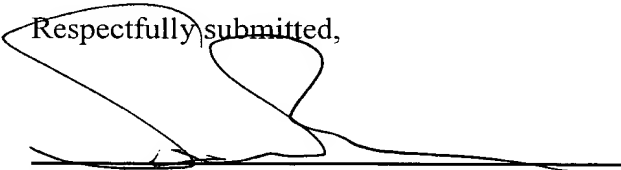
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all of the objections and rejections against this application have been fully addressed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a personal or telephonic interview would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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